

Esther Ezra Nehemiah

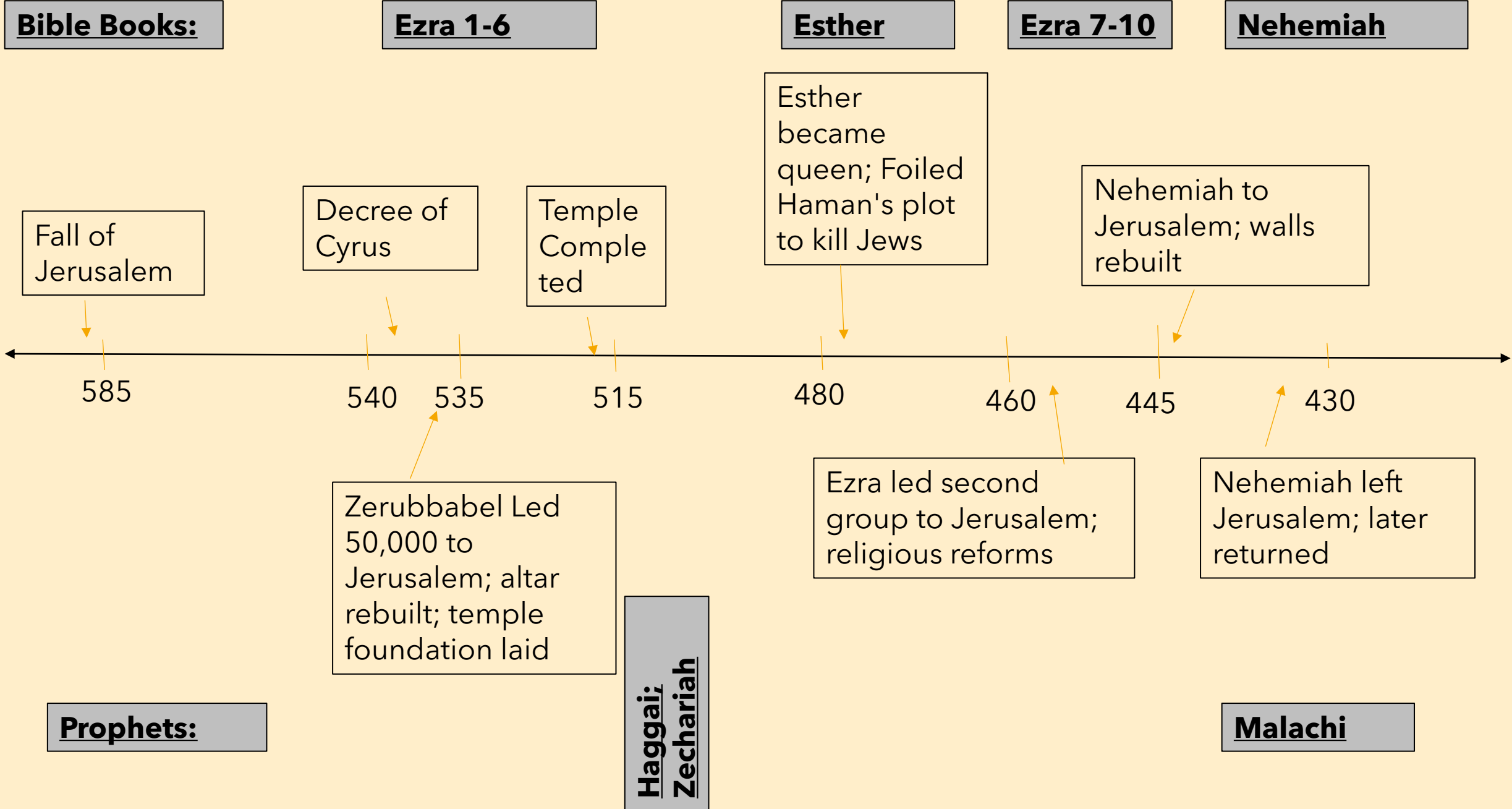
King of Persia	Reign (Approx.)	Key Events in Ezra-Nehemiah	Biblical References
Cyrus II ("the great")	559-530 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conquers Babylon(539 BC). - Issues decree allowing Jews to return and rebuild the temple. 	Ezra 1:1-4
Cambyses II	530-522 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reign between Cyrus and Darius. - Likely when rebuilding slowed due to opposition. 	No direct mention.
Darius I ("the Great")	522-486 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebuilding of the temple resumes and prophetic encouragement from Haggai and Zechariah. - Temple completed in 516 BC. 	Ezra 4:24-6:15
Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)	486-465 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposition to Jewish rebuilding mentioned briefly. - Possibly background to Esther's story. 	Ezra 4:6 Book of Esther
Artaxerxes I	465-424 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposition letters during his early reign (Ezra 4:7-23). - Later, he supports Ezra's mission to teach the Law (458 BC) 	Ezra 7:1-28

Tools of the Saints

- I. Trusting in who God is and what He promises.
- II. Joy in the Lord.
- III. Prayer before action.
- IV. Conviction of sin & confidence in God's redemption.
- V. Enduring obedience.

Tools of the Enemy

- I. Fear and discouragement.
- II. Syncretism of God and the world.
- III. Prosperity.



Esther

- I. Chapters 1-3: God sets up His plan of salvation.
- II. Chapters 4-7: God's people act and are aided by Him.
- III. Chapters 8-10 : God finishes His plan of salvation.

Ezra

- I. Chapters 1-7: Zerubbabel leads the people back to Israel and works on the temple.
- II. Chapters 8-10: Ezra calls the people back from lawlessness.

Nehemiah

- I. Chapters 1-2: prayer and preparation for God's mission.
- II. Chapters 3-7:72: building God's kingdom in an opposing world.
- III. Chapters 7:73-12: reconciliation and praise.
- IV. Chapter 13: Nehemiah calls the people back from lawlessness.